



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

December 22, 2020

Dear Maryland Leaseholder,

I hope you are having a joyful holiday season. It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another year. However, I can honestly say that 2020, and all of the difficulties we have experienced over the last year, will not be missed. Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division staff are looking forward to a brighter 2021 and would like to wish you and your families all the best for a safe and productive New Year.

As you are aware, the department issues Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permit (SAHP) and Registration Cards annually to individuals when monthly harvest and annual usage reporting requirements have been met and the lease remains in good standing with the department. You should have received your Annual Usage Report and Invoice email or mailing, including the renewal form for these permit and registration cards, within the last two months.

Due to unanticipated interruptions in postal service deliveries and work disruptions related to mandatory state telework requirements, the SAHP renewal process has been delayed. We are aware that in some cases there were delays in the delivery of packets to you, both electronically and/or in the postal mail. Therefore, we will be implementing a two-week grace period on the deadline to submit paperwork, to January 15, 2021. Staff will be working over the next two months to complete the processing of the SAHP paperwork and distribute 2021 cards to eligible leaseholders. Paperwork received after January 15, 2021 may not be processed in time for 2021 cards to be mailed and/or received by March 1, 2021.

**Accordingly, we are extending the expiration date of the 2020 Shellfish Aquaculture Harvester Permit and Registration Cards through February 28, 2021. Beginning March 1, 2021, all Permittees and Registrants will be required to carry newly issued 2021 cards while engaging in aquaculture activities on shellfish leases.**

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (443) 534-4859 or [karl.roscher@maryland.gov](mailto:karl.roscher@maryland.gov)

Happy Holidays,

Karl R. Roscher  
Director, Aquaculture and Industry Enhancement Division  
Fishing and Boating Services